

**Senate Research Committee
Minutes of a Meeting
Thursday, September 14, 2000 at 10:00 a.m. in room S-205**

Present: J. Beaudoin (secretary), C. Bédard, E. Besso, J. Capobianco, F. Haghighat, C. Lam, B. Layne, T. Mak, O. Moselhi, E. Saccá.

Regrets: A. English, N. Howe, R. Lachapelle, J. McGuire, N. Sajnani.

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. The Minutes of the meeting of Thursday, May 25, 2000 were approved as submitted (Dr. Besso, Dr. Haghighat).

3. Business Arising from the Minutes of March 30, 2000.

- Dr. Lightstone's reply to the memo sent to him regarding SRC's position on the Canada Research Chair allocations (SRC 0001 0915 D1)
- The Chair explained that this item would be addressed under Item 7: New Business.

Business arising from Minutes of Thursday, May 25, 2000.

- SRC membership (SRC 0001 0915 D2)
- The SRC membership for 2000-2001 has been finalised.
A complete list of the members was circulated to each committee member.

4. Chair's report

CFI: There was a New Opportunity award made to Dr. Gilles Peslherbe from the Department of Chemistry/Biochemistry. Dr. Philip Abrami was also successful in the most recent competition for applications of over \$350,000. Concordia researchers were involved as co-investigators in another 4 successful applications in the same competition. As a note of interest, Dean Bédard explained that Concordia University was not very successful in the last round, especially when compared to our success rate of the first competition. McGill University hired outside consultants for the last round, who helped with the drafting of their applications.

CRC: Concordia has decided to not award any Canada Research chairs internally; we will instead create University Research chairs in the hopes of retaining our most prolific researchers, and use the CRC funds for external recruiting. The source of funding for the internal chairs will be the frais indirect. Concordia has 2 CIHR Chairs, 2 NSERC Chairs and one SSHRC allocated to the 2000-01 academic year.

VRQ: Valorisation recherche Quebec was created by Minister Rochon of the Ministère de la Recherche, de la Science et de la Technologie (MRST), with a budget which includes \$50 million to launch new research initiatives in Quebec. In June of 2000, 10 such projects were approved with an envelope of \$12 million. Concordia researchers are affiliated with 3 of the projects. There was a second round of applications accepted in September 2000, and Concordia submitted 5 applications to that competition; results should be known early in 2001.

5. Report from the Director, Office of Research Services

The Director's Report is attached.

6. Question period

Following the Director's Report, it was asked what was the intended use of the \$10.5 million from the provincial government (MRST - VRQ) to create our "société de valorisation" VIP with sister institutions from the Université du Québec network. The funds in question are to be used for the following:

- to hire personnel, including a controller, specialized officers and a director general
- work of evaluating declarations of inventions
- systems networks to include the 12 participating universities
- IP protection, patenting
- seed funding to launch spin-off

7. New Business

URF Committee membership:

The committee membership for the 2001 adjudication will be decided at a future meeting of the SRC.

Ethics Policy revisions (SRC 0001 0914 **D3**)

Dr. F. Bird highlighted the changes that had been requested by the Tri-Council. The two primary issues were that since there are not many reviews done in the Natural Sciences and in Engineering, it was questioned whether those disciplines required separate committees. The second question focused on the process for obtaining consent from individuals who are not fully competent to give consent. Dr. Bird also mentioned that there is a necessity of having multi-level committees, since there is now too much work for just one committee. Lastly, there is also a requirement now that inter-university research programs show the documentation to all universities involved; it will no longer suffice to only show the certificate. Dr. Bird will continue to refine the document as per directives from the University and the Tri-Council, and he will present the final draft to SRC before it goes to Senate and the Board of Governors.

Dr. Lightstone's CRC memo (SRC 0001 0914 D4)

Dr. Lightstone's memo mentioned that other universities supported his and Dr. Lowy's concern that CRC's will be used by universities to "poach" candidates from other universities. In an environment such as Montreal where there are four major universities, the potential for a university with many more CRC's at its disposal to hire researchers away from the smaller institutions which cannot protect them, is a serious concern. Also, Dr. Lightstone's memo to SRC and APC highlighted that a decision had been made that no CRC would be offered to an internal candidate at Concordia; instead, special internal Chairs (URC's) will be created to retain our most prolific researchers.

CRC Strategic Research Plan (SRC 0001 0914 D5)

A copy of Concordia's Canada Research Chair Strategic Research Plan was submitted to Ottawa and Quebec as requested. The document outlines Concordia's future plans for research, as well as indicating the areas in which Concordia will be seeking to hire Canada Research Chairs.

SSHRC /GRF expired grants allocation

The objective was to draft a policy for the re-distribution of expired SSHRC grants; however, this item was tabled to the next meeting.

8. Information

Industry Canada: *A Framework for Science and Technology Advice* was distributed at the meeting.

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

10. The next meeting will be Thursday, October 19, 2000 at 10:00 am

11. Adjournment